

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Room 104, U-32 High School, 930 Gallison Hill Road, East Montpelier
October 27, 2009

The State Board and Department of Education provide support and leadership in the transformation of the Vermont education system in order to give each learner the opportunity to succeed in the 21st century.

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Present: Chair Fayneese Miller; Don Collins; Robert Kelley; Stephan Morse; John Hall; Ruth Stokes; Kathy Larsen; Alex Melville; Brian Vachon; Judy Livingston (arrived at 9:50 a.m.)

DOE: Commissioner Armando Vilaseca; Kay Charron; Jill Remick; Carol King; Rae Ann Knopf; Mark Oettinger; Carol Duley; Susan Hayes; Gail Taylor; Glenn Bailey; Peter Thoms; Marta Cambra; Michael Hock; Karin Edwards; Doug Webster; [For Item M]: Dave Phillips; Kate Cassi O'Neill; Anne Bordonaro; Tom Alderman; Lindsay Simpson; Pat Fitzsimmons;

Other: Rick Hilton; Retta Dunlap; Karrin Wilkes; Laura Soares; Kyle Wienreich; Rep. Joey Donovan; David Coriell; Trevor Braun; Ken Page, VPA; John Nelson, VSBA; Sean-Marie Oller; Dwight Davis; Teri Geney; Chris Koliba; Ray Proulx; Jeff Francis, VSA; Peter Hermann; Martha Tucker; Otho Thompson; Brian Howe; Keagan Harsha, WCAX Channel 3; Anya Huneke, NECN/Channel 5; Doug Weinreich; Carol Weinreich; David Bickford; Wm. Romond; Debra Stoleroff; Tom Slayton; Conrad W. Smith; Martha Tucker; Robbe Brook; Jeff Francis, VSA; Ginny Burley; Paige Jackins; Keith Gerritt; Stephanie Taylor; David Larsen;

Students: Jared Felch; Charlie Hoffert; Larissa Kehne; Fiona Moseley; Ethan Byrd; Simone Labbance; Luc Daut; Calvin McEathron

The current month's meeting agenda and packet materials may be accessed electronically at:
<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#packet>

Preliminaries

Item A: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Fayneese Miller, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Board members introduced themselves, as did members of the audience.

Transformation of Education

Item D: Education Transformation Policy Commission (Kay Charron, Policy Commission Members)

Don Collins introduced the Transformation Policy Commission presentation. Several members of the commission were present. Laura Soares presented information on which the commission has reached consensus on, including principals and values and fundamental transformations. Kyle Weinreich outlined for the Board the main recommendations from the commission, including aligning Grade Expectations with 21st century skills, benchmark assessments and the

three stages of learning progression. Chris Koliba spoke to the Board about the system change view to evolve our school based educational system to an educational system that transcends buildings, including recommending repealing the School Quality Standards and rotating audits. Karrin Wilkes of the Vermont State Colleges spoke to the Board about PreK-16 partnerships and dual enrollment. Martha Tucker spoke about the six recommendations of the Board including changes to the educator preparation programs and licensing endorsements. Retta Dunlap presented the Board with the commission's current thinking for regional governance. Teri Geney presented the Board with more information on Education Transformation as Public Policy and their recommendations for how the Board should move forward from here and the need for resources to do so.

The commission will give the Board detailed recommendations in early November, in preparation for a more focused discussion at the November 17th meeting. Other policy commission members also commented to the Board about the work of the commission.

The Board thanked the commission for their work and commented on the work to date. They asked questions about college readiness, regional districts, the rigor of requirements and "mastery," how to regionalize and consider taxation. Vice-chair Stokes commended the group for articulating more clearly the "Why" Vermont needs to change. Deputy Commissioner Rae Ann Knopf commended the group and noted the alignment with the strategic plan development, as well as the Race to the Top work on the federal level with this work.

Item E: Effective Practices in Schools Making Progress (Rae Ann Knopf, Gail Taylor, Susan Hayes)

Gail Taylor, Director of Standards and Assessment, introduced the Board to the Study by discussing the achievement gaps between students in poverty and their peers and the methodology of the survey. Susan Hayes, lead department coordinator of the study, walked the Board through the report findings. The findings support national research but had until now never been researched in Vermont. The study included a survey of more than 2,000 educators and site visits at three schools. The three schools are anonymous in the report but two of the principals will attend the November Board meeting. Board members asked questions about how schools supported student needs beyond the academic, some questions about the methodology, the possibility of doing the study at the high school level, how this informs the Transformation effort, how to share this information and use the professional development and applying for a grant to use this data further.

Item C: Commissioner's Update (Armando Vilaseca)

Item removed from agenda.

Action Items

Item F – Consent Agenda

Motion: Ruth Stokes moved, seconded by John Hall, to approve the consent agenda with comment. Chair Miller read aloud the list of items on September 15 consent agenda:

1. Minutes of September 15, 2009 SBE Meeting

2. Minutes of October 8, 2009 Special SBE meeting

3. Independent School Approval (Pat Pallas Gray, Kerry Garber)

Acknowledgement of Accreditation by New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEAS&C):

- The Grammar School, Putney, VT; grades K-8
- Putney School, Putney, VT; grades 9-12
- Sacred Heart St. Francis deSales, Bennington, VT; grades K-8
- St. Mary School, Middlebury, VT; grades K-6

Renewal of general independent school approval:

- Mount Snow Academy, W. Dover, VT; grades 6-12

Renewal of general and special education independent school approval:

- LEARN, Lyndonville, VT; ages 12-21

Renewal of special education independent school approval:

- Long Trail School, Dorset, VT; grades 6-12

Renewal of approval as an Other Education Program:

- Lund's New Horizon Program, So. Burlington, VT; pregnant/parenting young women

Renewal of tutorial program approval:

- Valley Vista, Bradford, VT; adolescents 13-18 & adults 18-22

4. Rule 2228.8 Waiver (Greg Glennon, Pat Pallas Gray)

5. School Quality Standards Waiver Request (Mark Oettinger)

- (a) Addison Central Supervisory Union (Middlebury Union Middle School) - Rule 2120.8.9(b)(6): "...arts, family and consumer science, and design and technology education"

The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Discussion Items

Item G: 1. FY 2010 Budget and DOE Capacity Update; 2. FY 2011 Budget Development Process; 3. ARRA (Stimulus) Update; 4. Legislative Agenda Development (Rae Ann Knopf, Mark Oettinger)

Rae Ann Knopf provided an update on the most recent budget rescissions, noting that it was the Commissioner's intent not to undergo any further reductions in staff. She also reported that the FY 2011 budget target information had just been released from the Administration, noting that there will be need to be an eight percent reduction in general funds.

Mark Oettinger reported on the current list of items being considered for the second half of the Legislative session, beginning in January 2010.

Item K: Public to be Heard

1. Sean-Marie Oller, chair, Mount Anthony UHS Board, expressed her dismay surrounding the Department's response to her recent request regarding the constitution of the Mount Anthony Union High School Board.
 2. Wilhelmina Picard, Superintendent of the Community High School of Vermont (CHSV), and Dwight Davis, CHSV Board chair, distributed copies of CHSV's 2009 annual report. Chair Miller asked Picard and Davis to speak about how the school embraces the principles of Transformation.
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Lunch: Several students from the U-32 High School community joined Board members for lunch and informal conversation.

Item H: Delegation of School Quality Standards (SQS) Waiver Authority (Mark Oettinger)
General Counsel Mark Oettinger presented the Board with a commissioner's recommendation to allow the commissioner to waive SQS for schools without the Board vote. The Board agreed and asked for regular updates as these occur. This item will be formally voted on at the November meeting.

Item I: Vice Chair Roles and Responsibilities (Board members)

Chair Miller explained to the Board the addition of a sentence allowing for a second vice-chair to assume the work of the vice-chair in the event of the first vice-chair's absence. Consensus.

Item J: Announcements, Board Member Updates, September Monthly Report (Chair, Board Members)

- Ruth Stokes noted that a donation to the Respite House had been made in Tom James' honor.
 - Chair Miller told the Board that UVM has applied for the Teacher Quality grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
 - Kathy Larsen, Don Collins and Brian Vachon reported on their attendance at the VSA/VSBA annual conference.
 - Larsen also reported on her participation at a recent New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) meeting.
 - Fayneese Miller and Brian Vachon updated the Board on *Living in the New Normal*, a program designed to support children and families of deployed individuals. Large numbers of Vermont's school children are being affected by the upcoming deployment.
 - Chair Miller formally acknowledged Rae Ann Knopf as the Deputy Commissioner.
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Item L: Future Agendas (Board members, Rae Ann Knopf, Carol King)

Carol King reported that she and Mark Oettinger attended the October 13-16 NASBE annual conference in Cincinnati. She encouraged Board members to consider participating in NASBE's upcoming study committees.

King reviewed the list of items for the November and December Board meetings.

Item M: Work Session – Strategic Planning Process (Board members; Ray Proulx, Armando Vilaseca, Rae Ann Knopf, Carol King)

Subcommittees reported on their work to date. Next steps include continued work on goals and objectives; work on indicators of progress was put on hold pending the outcome of a discussion on the efficacy of appointing a steering committee to move the work forward.

Item N: Wrap Up and Adjourn - Motion: At 3:40 p.m., Kathy Larsen moved, seconded by John Hall, to adjourn the October 27, 2009 meeting of the State Board of Education.

Minutes recorded by Jill Remick
Minutes prepared by Carol King